

Nevada Department of Education

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 11 No. 1

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Superintendent's Message.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>New Deputy Superintendent.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Best Wishes.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Perkins Act</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>New GEAR UP Program.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>State Board News</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Board Member Recognized.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>New School Region Created.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>More New Schools.....</i>	<i>4</i>

Keith W. Rheault

*Superintendent of
Public Instruction*

Gloria Dopf

*Deputy Superintendent of
Instructional, Research and
Evaluative Services*

James R. Wells

*Deputy Superintendent of
Administrative and Fiscal Services*

Nevada Department of Education

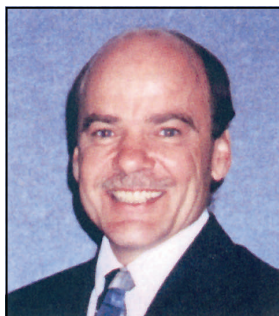
*700 E. Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
and*

*1749 Moody Street
Carson City, Nevada 89706*

*Southern Nevada Office
1820 E. Sahara, Suite 205
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104-3746*

Superintendent's Message

The Department of Education and



Keith W. Rheault

Nevada school districts, as required by state and federal law, have finalized annual school accountability findings. As part of the state's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) model, each school year, every public school is

judged based on school performance on standards-based reading, writing, and mathematics assessments administered in grades 3 - 8 and in high school, as well as on other accountability information. Annual AYP findings are combined across school years in order for the state to make school achievement designations. Based upon multiple years of AYP performance, schools may be designated as "Exemplary," "High Achieving," "Adequate," "Watch," or "In Need of Improvement."

In 2006, schools performed quite well overall, and, as a result, fewer schools are in need of improvement (more...page 2)

Deputy Superintendent Appointed

Dr. **Keith Rheault**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, appointed **James Wells** as the Deputy Superintendent for Administrative and Fiscal Services for the Department of Education. He replaces **Doug Thunder**, who recently retired.

Mr. Wells attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Reno, in Business Administration and Accounting.

Prior to his appointment in the Department, Mr. Wells was the Chief Financial Officer for the Nevada Public Employees' Benefits Program. Formerly, he was the Chief Deputy at the Nevada Controller's Office and also worked for the Nevada Housing Division and the University of Nevada, Reno. His other professional experiences include working for the accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche and the City of Roanoke, Virginia.

Mr. Wells commented, "The education of our children is one of the most valuable services government provides to citizens. As an overseer of public funds, it is important to provide this service while assuring the public their tax dollars are spent prudently. I am dedicated to working with the State Board of Education, the executive and legislative branches of state government, and our local school districts to provide them accurate information and resources to meet our education needs."



James R. Wells

Best Wishes go to **Doug Thunder**, **Mary Geisler**, **Joyce Dalbey**, and **Frank South** who recently retired from the Department of Education. Their service to education in our state comprise a cumulative 106 years.

Doug Thunder began work in 1986 for the Department of Education as an auditor of nutrition education programs; then became Principal Auditor supervising all school district audits for the Department.

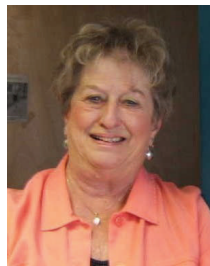


Later, he was promoted to Chief Accountant/Director for the Office of Fiscal Services.

In November 1995, former Superintendent of Public Instruction **Mary Peterson** appointed Mr. Thunder to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Administrative and Fiscal Services. In that position, his responsibilities included overseeing Nevada's Distributive School Account fund and developing the state's biennial education budget.

Both Doug and his wife, **Pat**, retired from state service on August 1, 2006.

Mary Geisler retired from the Department July 14, 2006, as an Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services.



Mary Geisler

Ms. Geisler joined the Department in 1970 as a Senior Clerk Steno in the Department's Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Her recent responsibilities included serving as Coordinator for Nevada's Teacher of the Year Program and the Senate Youth Program.

Mary's service to the state spanned 35½ years and nine state Superintendents of Public Instruction: **Burnell Larson**, **Ken Hansen**, **Ralph Disibio**, **John Gamble**, **Ted Sanders**, **Gene Paslov**, **Mary Peterson**, **Jack McLaughlin**, and **Keith Rheault**.

With 22 years of service in the Department, **Joyce Dalbey** retired July 14, 2006.

She began her career with the Department as an Administrative Aide in the Elementary and Secondary Education Branch in June 1984. Later, she transferred to the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, working for the former Director, **Kevin Crowe**. Her most recent position was Administrative Assistant to Director **Paul LaMarca** in the Office of Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum.

Frank South joined the Department as a Consultant for Special Education in February of 1977, after previously working as a special education contractor through the University of Nevada, Reno, from August 1976.

He served as Director of the Office of Special Education, Coordinator for Title II-A and Title VI, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education, Director of Human Resources, Director of Teacher Licensure and Director of the Department's



Joyce Dalbey



Frank South

Las Vegas office.

Most recently, Frank served as the Director of the Office of Technology & Innovative Programs.

He plans to remain involved in educational technology and related issues after his retirement from the Department on September 1, 2006.

The Department is grateful to Doug, Mary, Joyce, and Frank for their many years of service and wish them happy trails and a long and healthy retirement.

(Superintendent's Message continued from page 1)

than anticipated based on results from the 2005 school year. Of 613 public schools included in the process, 17 schools have been designated as "Exemplary" and 79 schools have been designated as "High Achieving." Additionally, 55 schools have been designated as being on "Watch" and 233 schools have been designated as "In Need of Improvement."

The current results provide reason for optimism. It seems that school improvement efforts are beginning to make a difference. This means that students are receiving more opportunity to learn and are taking advantage of the opportunity. That is our goal. We hope to be able to continue to support local efforts toward these ends. Schools and school districts need to remain cognizant of the changing goal expectations associated with AYP and the need to remain vigilant in implementing and evaluating school improvement efforts.

More information? Visit <http://www.doe.nv.gov> under the Accountability link.

Keith W. Rheault

Congress Passes Perkins Act Reauthorization

The U.S. House and Senate renewed the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act when both chambers agreed to the conference report S.250 by a vote of 416-9. The act maintains the 5 percent set-aside for administrative costs and separate line-item funding for the Tech Prep program, both of which were excluded from the original House bill but were included in the Senate version. The new law also enforces stricter accountability guidelines at the local level, requiring that job placement percentages and proficiency test scores be reported annually to the state office.

More information? Contact **Phyllis Dryden**, Tel. 775.687.9190.

New GEAR UP Program for Nevada Schools

Governor **Kenny Guinn** recently announced that Nevada is the recipient of a new GEAR UP Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The program is focused on preparing secondary students in economically disadvantaged communities for the opportunity to receive a post-secondary education.

The six-year program will begin this fall with a selected group of 7th grade students in Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Mineral, Nye, Pershing and Washoe County School Districts. The students will be tracked through their senior year in high school and, if academically successful, will be eligible for scholarships to Nevada colleges.

More information? Contact **Charlotte Curtis**, Tel. 775.687.9243.

State Board of Education News

- Members of the Nevada State Board of Education met at their annual retreat on August 3 and 4, 2006, in Incline Village. Board members discussed state and national issues affecting education with a focus on the need to improve our students' academic achievement.
- The Board engaged in discussions on the K-12 education governance structure as it has evolved in the state since 1989. A proposal was brought forward to study the current structure, which consists of numerous boards, commissions and councils, to simplify governance and better focus available resources on the educational needs of Nevada students.
- Following the annual retreat, the Board met in regular session on August 5, 2006, in Carson City. The Board approved the biennial budget for education which will be submitted to the Governor for inclusion in the Administration's 2008 - 2009 legislative education proposals.
- At the same meeting, the Board approved alternative education programs for students in Carson City, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Washoe and White Pine County School Districts. The programs will operate during the 2006 - 2007 school year.

People will accept your ideas much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first.

State Board Member Recognized



At the State Board of Education meeting held on August 5, 2006, State Board member/clerk **Barbara Myers** received a plaque in recognition of her work on the Homeschool Advisory Committee. In the photo above, Northern Nevada Home-school Advisory Council Chair **Carl Lucas** made the presentation to Mrs. Myers.

Senate Youth Program

Applications for the U.S. Senate Youth Program Scholarship have been mailed to Nevada high schools. Two Nevada junior or senior high school students will be selected to receive a scholarship of \$5,000 each and will be guests of the U.S. Senators for a week in Washington, D.C. Applications are due to the Nevada Department of Education by November 3, 2006.

More information? E-mail edsente@sbcglobal.net

Clark County Creates New School Region

Clark County School District created a new region, the Superintendent's Schools, which will begin this fall, 2006. This region will be comprised of approximately 40 schools and will include Choice Schools, Professional Practice Schools, Language Acquisition Models, and Empowerment Schools.

The formation of the Superintendent's Schools not only introduces change into the district's culture, it also will provide relief for the existing five regions that have experienced tremendous growth over the past four years.



The Empowerment School Model is a unique and innovatively designed school that allows staff to have greater independence and decision-making authority with fewer restraints from contracts and central control.

The first four Empowerment Schools and their principals are

- Rose Warren Elementary
Rosanna Gallagher, Principal
- Paul Culley Elementary
Lisa Primas, Principal
- Kirk Adams Elementary
Rebecca Johnson, Principal
- Lee Antonello Elementary
Linda Reese, Principal

Superintendent **Dr. Walt Rulffes** stated, "The success of the Empowerment Schools and the new region will serve to initiate change, which we believe will lead to our ultimate goal of increased student achievement."



More New Schools for Las Vegas

A Celebration of Progress sponsored by the Council for Educational Facilities Planners International was held on August 9, 2006, at Cashman Theatre. The event was in celebration of the opening of 10 new schools, including the Rancho High School phased replacement school.

The new schools are

<u>Elementary Schools</u>	<u>Middle Schools</u>
• Hayden	• Johnston
• Schorr	• Tarkanian
• Steele	
• Thompson	<u>High Schools</u>
• Ward	• Legacy
• Wright	• Rancho

The 2006 - 2007 school year begins for Clark County schools on August 30, 2006.



Nevada State Board of Education/ Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education

Members

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Marcia L. Washington, Vice President
Barbara Myers, Clerk
Patrick J. Boylan
Sharon Frederick
John Gwaltney
Merv Iverson
Dorothy M. Nolan
Cindy M. Reid
Gary Waters
Madisen McGrath, Student Member

Keith W. Rheault
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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News about your school, students and teachers is welcome. The Department of Education reserves the right to print all or part of any information submitted. Please direct your news or inquiries to Bill Arensdorf or Charmaine Martineau, Nevada Department of Education, 1749 Moody Street, Carson City, Nevada 89706; Tel. 775.687.9174.

The Nevada Department of Education is an equal opportunity/affirmative action agency. The Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, political affiliation, disability or sexual orientation.



MISSION: The Nevada Department of Education provides leadership, resources, assistance and oversight, in partnership with school districts and others, to support student achievement and future success.

NDE Leadership Offices

Assessments, Program Accountability & Curriculum

Tel. 775.687.9186

Career, Technical & Adult Education

Tel. 775.687.9100

Child Nutrition & School Health

Tel. 775.687.7300

Department Operations

Tel. 775.687.9102

Fiscal Accountability

Tel. 775.687.9174

Fiscal Services

Tel. 775.687.9107

Special Education, ESEA & School Improvement

Tel. 775.687.9171

Teacher Licensure

- Carson City Tel. 775.687.9115
- Las Vegas Tel. 702.486.6458

Technology & Innovative Programs

Tel. 775.687.9141